

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ABIDJA 05426 071735Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00
SS-15 PM-05 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03
/071 W
-----098846 071740Z /46

O 071720Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9070
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAKAR IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LOME IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI IMMEDIATE
USCINCEUR VAINGEN IMMEDIATE
JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
CINCMAC SCOTT AFB IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T ABIDJAN 5426

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, CG
SUBJECT: AFRICAN AIRLIFT

REF: (A) SECSTATE 143838; (B) SECSTATE 139907 OF JUNE 2;
(C) 21AF MC GUIRE AFB NJ DTG 062203Z JUN 78

1. IT SEEMS TO ME EXTREMELY LATE IN THE DAY TO
BE RAISING QUESTIONS ABOUT WHO WILL AIRLIFT
IVORIANS AND OTHER AFRICAN PERSONNEL TO ZAIRE.
AT DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTION (REFTEL B) I HAVE
SOLICITED REQUEST AT MOST SENIOR LEVELS OF THE
IVORIAN GOVERNMENT FOR US LOGISTIC SUPPORT FOR
THEIR MEDICAL CONTINGENT, HAVE ADVISED THEM

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THAT SUPPORT WILL BE FORTHCOMING AND IN PAST
FOUR DAYS HAVE REMAINED IN ALMOST CONTINUAL
TOUCH WITH IVORIAN MINISTER AKE, AS WELL AS WITH
FRENCH EMBASSY ABIDJAN, TO ASSURE EFFECTIVE
COORDINATION OF PICKUP. AS I DICTATE THIS MESSAGE
IVORIAN MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE
ARE OPERATING ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT US AF C41S

WILL BE ARRIVING IN ABIDJAN AT 2025 HOURS THIS
EVENING (REFTEL C) TO TRANSPORT THE
IVORIANS TO ZAIRE. IVORIAN FORCE OF 105 PERSONNEL
PLUS EQUIPMENT AND MEDICINE WILL BE MOVING OUT TO
POSITION THEMSELVES AT PORT-BOUET AIRPORT WITHIN
THE NEXT FEW HOURS.

2. NOW WE LEARN (REFTEL A) THAT THERE IS A BASIC
QUESTION WHETHER US WILL SUPPLY AIRLIFT AT ALL.
THESE QUESTIONS SHOULD HAVE BEEN RESOLVED BEFORE
THIS OPERATION WAS UNDERTAKEN AND BEFORE I WAS
INSTRUCTED TO SOLICIT IVORIAN REQUEST. I STRONGLY
URGE THAT US AIRLIFT GO FORWARD AS SCHEDULED (REFTEL
C). WE CANNOT RPT NOT AT THIS TIME ADVISE IVORIANS
THAT WE HAVE CHANGED OUR MINDS WITHOUT DOING REAL
DAMAGE TO OUR RELATIONS WITH THEM AND LEAVING THEM
WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT WE HAVE, FOR REASONS UNKNOWN
TO THEM, WITHDRAWN AN OFFER TO HELP THEM WHICH THEY
ACCEPTED IN GOOD FAITH.

STEARNS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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